Creation of corporations for long distance railway lines

1396. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed for the creation of corporations for long distance capital intensive railway lines which pass through more than one State; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rise in sugar prices

1397. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of sugar continued to move up despite an increase of sugar production during the current season (1989-90) by about 5 lakh tonnes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The price of sugar at present is much lower than that prevailing during November, 1989.

Treating of employees of statutory and non-statutory recognised canteens at par with railway employees

1398. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the recent Supreme Court judgement that the employees of the statutory and non-statutory recognised canteens run by the Railways throughout the country are entitled to the same service conditions as those of other railway employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any steps are being taken to implement the same, if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to bring the caterers in long distance trains also under this category; if so, the details; and

(e) if the reply to part (d) above be in the negative the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Briefly stated Supreme Court in their Judgement dated 27-2-90 has declared the employees of 89 statutory Railway canteens and 173 non-statutory recognised Railway canteens as railway servants, eligible for all benefits, from the dates as specified. Steps have already been initiated to implement the Judgement.

(d) and (e) Pantry Car services are managed either departmentally or through licences. In case of departmentally managed Pantry Cars, most of the staff are regular railway employees. However, there are some commission bearers also who are being absorbed gradually subject to suitability and availability of vacancies. The staff of private licencees cannot be brought under the category of railway servants..